

November 12, 2009

Mr. Russell Gould  
President  
University of California Board of Regents  
1111 Franklin Street  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, California 94607

Dear Russ,

The lack of adequate health care resources in south Los Angeles has been chronicled for decades. This was exacerbated in 2006 when Martin Luther King-Harbor Hospital (MLK) failed a critical federal inspection and later closed, leaving an even larger hole in services for the area, as well as reduced capacity for training medical professionals. As Los Angeles County struggles to provide access to health care services, I ask that the University of California Regents approve an agreement with the county to be a crucial partner in the effort to reopen a hospital on the MLK site.

I have long expressed my strong preference that the University of California take a lead role in restoring these needed health services to the south Los Angeles community. More than a year ago, I convened a meeting of two Los Angeles County supervisors and former UC Provost Rory Hume to discuss the future of MLK Hospital. At that time, Provost Hume shared the University's interest in partnering with the state and Los Angeles County to reopen MLK hospital, but also identified financial, governance, seismic and management issues that would require resolution.

I welcome the progress over the intervening months, culminating November 19, 2009, with your consideration of the agreement with Los Angeles County on the MLK replacement facility. Members of my staff have participated in weekly meetings with University of California and Los Angeles County officials where governance, financing, licensing, medical education, seismic safety and other issues relevant to the reopening of the hospital have been discussed. These issues have been resolved to the satisfaction of all parties, and the agreement before you for consideration represents the next step toward reopening the facility and providing high-quality health services that the citizens of south Los Angeles need and deserve.

I urge your support of the agreement. My administration stands ready to assist Los Angeles County and the University of California in the forthcoming construction review process and the effort to reopen MLK hospital.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger